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### **Return of Rhode Island Ospreys**

After a long winter and with much anticipation, the ospreys have once again returned to their nesting grounds. The first report of an osprey occurred on March 16<sup>th</sup>, identical to last season. Many more sightings were reported on the vernal equinox, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Many returnees are well underway in their breeding activity and nest rebuilding. Refer to the list of sites at the end of the newsletter for many of the known osprey nesting locations. Anyone wishing to be a cooperator may contact the Division at the above address for more information.

#### **A Special Note to Cooperators**

As volunteers, I wish to thank you for your interest, willingness, and diligence to the osprey program. I also realize that you have many ways to spend your time and am honored that you choose to assist in this program. I also know that life changes and your past participation may not reflect on your current participation. **With that in mind, please, if you have not already done so, take a moment to contact me with a list of those nests that you intend to follow. Be on the lookout for sub-adult pairs that may soon be establishing new sites as housekeepers. If possible send me GPS coordinates or just mark an X on a map.** Report incubating activity, number of young, and disturbance factors and anything else that you consider important. This information will greatly ease the difficulties encountered in trying to monitor all of our ever-increasing population.

Volunteer cooperators do an extensive amount of the monitoring of the ospreys in Rhode Island. The osprey database is approximately one hundred years old and still ongoing. In order to continue this project as a survey, volunteers are needed more than ever. As the population of ospreys increases, the assistance of additional cooperators is critical in making an accurate assessment of RI osprey reproductive success.

**Volunteer hours are extremely valuable** to the Division, not only in helping complete important tasks, but also because volunteer time can be used by the Division as a way of generating funds from the US Fish and Wildlife Service through the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration grant. **Volunteer hours are considered an in-kind donation, and are eligible for match money**, which assists the osprey program.

Enclosed is a **volunteer time sheet to be filled out, signed and returned to the Division at the end of the osprey-nesting season.** If you are interested in becoming a cooperator, please contact me at the above numbers, otherwise, disregard the form.

We know of ospreys frequenting some familiar places but cannot locate their nests. Any assistance with the following would be helpful: Warwick (by Cranberry Pond), East Greenwich (Greenwich Cove), North Kingstown (Belleville Pond & Gilbert Stuart Pond), Exeter (Arcadia hatchery), Richmond (Carolina hatchery-go figure), and Little Compton (Simmons Mill Pond WMA), and the north end of Portsmouth near St. Mary's Pond.

### **New Osprey Platforms**

The Division has been assisting several interested parties with new osprey platforms. As in the past, permits may be required due to the proximity of a pole to a wetland or coastal feature. Please contact the Division for details, as well as site location and design.

Three platforms were installed by National Grid in conjunction with the Town Pond marsh restoration in Portsmouth. The Division replaced one platform, which was in disrepair, at Sand Hill Cove, Narragansett and installed another pole at our Jerusalem facility, to avoid conflicts with nearby transformers.

### **Osprey Advocacy**

As in past years, the return of the ospreys marks a period of conflict with various utilities. In general, the Division encourages utilities to conduct routine maintenance during the months when ospreys have migrated. As nesting progresses, the options become limited, as federal law prohibits disturbance of protected species nests and eggs unless an imminent health hazard can be demonstrated.

### **Transmitter & Webcam Update**

Rob Bierregaard continues to send updates on the status of the transmitter tagged birds. For further information visit:

<http://www.bioweb.uncc.edu/bierregaard/ospreys.htm>

The Conanicut Island Raptor Project's webcam is up and running at the Marsh Meadows nest on Jamestown. Interested viewers can tune in at:

<http://www.conanicutraptors.com>

### **Email Notification**

As budgets continually get tightened, the Division is trying to reduce postage and mailing costs. If you have not already done so, please contact me with your email address so I can send you newsletters electronically. Paper copies will be available for those without computer access or prefer a hard copy.

Editor: Lori Gibson  
Supervising Wildlife Biologist

"It is the policy of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to offer its services and accommodations to all orderly persons, and, as required, to all properly licensed persons, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, facility, or if you desire further information, please write to the Office for Equal Opportunity, US Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, Washington, DC 20240."

The Osprey Newsletter is made possible, in part, by the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Act, Rhode Island Project E-1.

**The following are known osprey nest locations:**

<b>Nesting site</b>	<b>Town</b>		<b>Nesting site</b>	<b>Town</b>
Smith Cove, Rumstick Point	Barrington		Sprague Park	Narragansett
Hundred Acre Cove	Barrington		Wastewater Treatment Facility	Narragansett
Palmer River	Barrington		Gooseberry Beach	Newport
Johannis Farm	Barrington		Freebody Park	Newport
Wampanoag Trail	Barrington		Allen's Harbor	N. Kingstown
Barrington High School	Barrington		Mc Ginn Park	N. Kingstown
Barrington River	Barrington		N. Kingstown Dog Pound	N. Kingstown
Washington Rd	Barrington		North Kingstown High School	N. Kingstown
Mill Gut	Bristol		Quonset	N. Kingstown
Mill Cove	Bristol		Rabbit Island	N. Kingstown
Hutch's Dam	Block Island		Ryan Park	N. Kingstown
Ninigret Pond Fiore Sand &Gravel	Charlestown		Wilson Park	N. Kingstown
Kings Factory Rd.	Charlestown		Narragansett Park Dr.	Pawtucket
Quonochontaug	Charlestown		Mellville	Portsmouth
Shannock Rd	Charlestown		Port of Providence	Providence
Tuck-a-hoe Turf	Charlestown		Nags Creek	Prudence Is.
Shumankunuc Rd.	Charlestown		Buttonwoods Rd.	Richmond
Luther Property	Coventry		Rt 95	Richmond
ACI	Cranston		Rockland Cemetery	Scituate
Colony Ford	Cranston		George St (Horse Farm)	Seekonk
Uncle Bob's Self Storage	E. Greenwich		Olney St	Seekonk
American Legion Post	E. Greenwich		Factory Pond	S. Kingstown
Mobil Tank Farm	E. Providence		Great Swamp	S. Kingstown
Bucklin Point	E. Providence		Hanson's Landing	S. Kingstown
Pierce Field	E. Providence		Jerusalem F&W Coastal Lab	S. Kingstown
Catamore Blvd.	E. Providence		Old Mountain Field	S. Kingstown
Exeter Metcalf	Exeter		Pond St.	S. Kingstown
Killingly Pond	Glocester		Point Judith Pond	S. Kingstown
Burdickville	Hopkinton		Potter Pond	S. Kingstown
Chickadee	Hopkinton		Succotash (water tower)	S. Kingstown
Narragansett Trail	Hopkinton		Trustom Pond	S. Kingstown
Tomaquag	Hopkinton		Silviera Property	Swansea
Potter Hill	Hopkinton		Swansea Country Club	Swansea
Marsh Meadows	Jamestown		Jack's Island (Ruecker Refuge)	Tiverton
Beavertail	Jamestown		Belcher Cove	Warren
Elementary School	Jamestown		Driving Range	Warren
Fox Hill Farm	Jamestown		Kickemuit Middle School	Warren
Palmieri	Jamestown		Schoolhouse Rd.	Warren
Goose wing beach	Little Compton		CCRI	Warwick
Quicksand Pond	Little Compton		Mickey Stevens	Warwick
Haefenreffer	Little Compton		Arlington RV park	Warwick
Round Pond	Little Compton		Barry's Niteclub	Warwick
Canonchet Farm Museum	Narragansett		Big River	W. Greenwich
DeChristofaro Park	Narragansett		Super 8 Motel	W. Greenwich
Galilee	Narragansett		Hazard Rd.	W. Greenwich
Indian Rock Rd.	Narragansett		Avondale	Westerly
Narrow River	Narragansett		Breen Rock	Westerly
Narragansett Beach	Narragansett		Chapman Pond	Westerly
Point Judith Pond	Narragansett		Maschaug Pond	Westerly
Salt Pond Shopping Ctr	Narragansett		Misquamicut	Westerly

Napatree Point	Westerly		White Rock Rd.	Westerly
Potter Cove	Westerly		Winnapaug Pond	Westerly
Rt 91/ 78 Transfer Station	Westerly		Foster Cove Rd.	Westerly
Westerly Pee Wee Field	Westerly			

## VOLUNTEER TIME AND ACTIVITY RECORD

Please Print

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE BE SPECIFIC WITH DESCRIPTIONS

Date

(mm/dd/yy)

Description of Work

Work Time

Travel Time

Miles Traveled

Total Time


PLEASE COMPUTE TIME IN WHOLE NUMBERS. Total Mileage \_\_\_\_\_ Total Hrs. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Volunteer (Required)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Job Description

Please Read Carefully Below

Individuals must FILL OUT, SIGN AND RETURN the "Volunteer Time and Activity Record" and "Covenant Not to Sue". No faxes.

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME AND TALENTS TO THE DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES – RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT.

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Office Use Only:

Total hours X \_\_\_\_\_ (position hourly rate) + Total mileage X \_\_\_\_\_ (current mileage rate) =

\* State employees- base mileage rate on dates written in by volunteers.

Federal Aid Project & Segment \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ -

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